The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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COMPENSATION LAW PASSED

Denver, Col., April 24.—A compensation law has been passed by the state legislature, about the only value the bill possesses is the fact that it establishes the principle of compensation in the state. The act contains four different kinds of optional insurance, and students of this question believe the law will prove unworkable. The law takes effect the first of next August, and it is urged at this time the general assembly again convenes, January, 1917, the demand for a genuine compensation act will be universal.

The new law exempts farm labor and domestics, as well as employers who employ less than four workers.

Four forms of insurance for compensation are left open to the employer—insurance in the state compensation insurance fund, which is created by the new law; stock company insurance, mutual insurance and the carrying by the employer of his own risk, on filing of a bond with the industrial commission to guarantee compensation payments if the industry arises.

The industrial commission makes rates for insurance in the state fund. Disability indemnity to be paid under the law is based on the average yearly wages of an employe, but cannot exceed $8 per week. In case of death the maximum amount to be paid is $2,500.

The law will be administered by the newly created industrial commission. Other duties of this board consists of making investigations in industry and the settlement of differences between capital and labor.

WILL USE REFERENDUM.

Seattle, Wash., April 24.—Unionists in this state are actively engaged in securing names to referendum petitions that much of the work of the last legislature may be undone. Amendments to the referendum law and senate bill No. 267, which outlines even the suggestion of picketing, are especially obnoxious and the workers are sure the electorate of this state will reject these enactments. The referendum changes really destroy direct legislation in Washington, as they make it illegal to circulate petitions and compel those who would sign petitions to go to the places where petitions will be held for this purpose.

The anti-picketing law is the most drastic and is a blow at both free press and free speech. The act, which has been signed by the governor, makes it a misdemeanor to call attention to or advertise, directly or indirectly, any industrial controversy.

Other illegal acts are:

Stand or continuously move back and forth, on the sidewalk, highway, public place or private property, or within five hundred feet of, any place in which any labor business is conducted by any person, or home or place of abode of such person or his employer, or

Openly maintain, carry or transport on any sidewalk, street, public place or private property, any banner, card, transparency, writing or printing that an industrial dispute exists.

NAVY YARD WORKERS PROTEST

Washington, April 24.—Columbia lodge No. 174, composed of 1,400 navy yard machinists in this city, has appointed a committee to present grievances against conditions at the Washington yard to the proper officials. The work they charge that the "task" system, under another name, is being used. One of the innovations is a so-called "efficiency bonus" which is, while alleging to keep close tab on production, merely increases the workers. The machinists will show government officials that the "system" fad has become an unnecessary evil and that a great deal of it is not only useless, but it adds to the cost of production.

NO CONSUMPTIVE "CURES."

Washington, April 24.—After many investigations under the pure food and drug act, of the many preparations advertised as consumption cures, the department of agriculture has been unable to find a single one that can in any sense be regarded as a "cure" for tuberculosis. Some contain drugs that may at times relieve distressing symptoms of the disease, but this is all, the department says.

Since passage of the pure food and drug law, forbidding false and fraudulent claims, there has been a marked tendency to label these preparations "remedies" instead of "cures" or "infallible cures."

CAUSE FOR TYPHUS FEVER.

Washington, April 24.—No epidemic of typhus fever has ever been threatened in the United States, according to members of the public health service, who say that typhus comes from unsanitary living conditions, principally lack of facilities for bathing.

SIGN WIDOWED MOTHERS' BILL.

Albany, N. Y., April 24.—Gov. Whitman has signed a bill to provide mothers with orphaned children to be paid the same money for their care that would be paid to orphan asylums.

TELL FARMERS OF UNIONISM

Oklahoma City, Okla., April 24.—Acquaint the farmers with the benefits of trade unionism and in effect the campaign now carried on by anti-union influences in the advice of the Oklahoma Labor Unit, which notes that the farmer influence in the state legislature is often against the industrial worker because of this lack of understanding.

The Labor Unit gives this advice, which can be applied by unionists to all classes or citizens:

"The next session of the legislature should very forcibly to our mind one fact, and that is that before we may expect to secure all the demands of labor and in the shape we want them, we must undertake an educational campaign in the rural districts.

"We, the members of organized labor, know that organized labor is the only way, that nothing is asked for that is not backed by many good and sufficient reasons that has for its object the making of life better worth the living. In the cities and towns the necessity of it is pretty well understood but out in the country, to a very great extent, it is quite different.

"Most of the literature the farmer gets gives only one side, the employer's side of every question, and the result is we find members of the legislature opposing labor measures whom we feel sure would not do so had they been made to understand them and to know what organized labor's objects are. Union men of Oklahoma must do their share in this regard and apply the remedy that is needed—publicity."

INTENDED SNUB A FAILURE

Bakersfield, Cal., April 24.—The Evening Californian makes the following comment on the refusal of University of Pennsylvania authorities to permit President Gompers to speak in a hall at that institution:

"It is not encouraging to find a great educational institution like the University of Pennsylvania refusing to grant to Samuel Gompers the right to speak one of its halls, while to address the students. It is encouraging though to note that, learning of the policy of the university, its authorities with reference to Mr. Gompers, 100 students showed their resentment by assembling to hear what the president of the American Federation of Labor had to say.

"Pin-headedness is about the only word that fittingly describes the attitude of the Pennsylvania college faculty. Samuel Gompers has been one of the greatest factors for good in the labor movement that the world has ever known. He has been conservative to the extent of refusing the influence of the reckless element within the ranks of labor and he has been broad enough to realize that such a man shall not have the ear of the young men who are being educated there is to declare for a narrow policy that cannot but discredit not only the governing body but the institution itself.

"The Pennsylvania college authorities cannot snub nor prevent Samuel Gompers by refusing him permission to address the students, but they can write their names down as one not broad enough to attract the favorable attention of those who have hops to educate."

VETOES COMPENSATION LAW.

Boise, Idaho, April 24.—Gov. Alexander has vetoed the workmen's compensation law passed by the present legislature. The bill has been the subject of vigorous denunciation by trade unionists, who declared that it failed to provide adequate compensation in cases of the injury or death of workmen; that it discriminated against the employment of American workmen and in favor of employment of aliens. In like manner authorities of the state, and that it was apparently drawn in the interest of the lumber, mining and other industries, which employ a large number of men. The workers insisted that the law was unfair and unjust, as it placed a barrier against the American citizen with a family and made it an economic boon for employers to hire aliens. The action of Gov. Alexander is applauded by not only the trade unionists of the state, but by right-thinking people in all walks of life.

PASS CITY PENSION BILL.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 24.—The state senate has passed the bill to require Philadelphia to establish a pension fund for certain of its city employes. The bill is now in the house for concurrence in the changes. The retirement age limit in the bill is 70, bill is 55 years, and an employe to be entitled to the pension must have served the city or county twenty years. An employe retired on pension is to receive 50 per cent of the amount of his salary in service. For the support of the fund city and county employes are to contribute 2 per cent of their pay monthly.

The mayor, comptroller, city treasurer, and two representatives each of the city and the county employes are to constitute a pension fund commission.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY NECESSARY.

Scranton, Pa., April 24.—In an editorial on the eight-hour day, the Republican of this city says:

"Mining, and particularly coal mining, where peculiar and as well as treacherous roof are always a menace, is conceded by every one to be a hazardous occupation. Every advancement in the dark chambers and gangways, where the air is never as pure as at the surface, raises the stamina of even the hardiest men.

"It has been the contention of the mine workers that in occupations such as theirs they can do as much in a shorter day, through more strenuous effort, than if compelled to labor for nine or ten hours. In addition, being more alert and fit they should be paid at the rate of time and one-half. A board of conciliation is created and the agreement remains in force until February 28, 1917.

BARTENDERS MAKE GAINS.

Lynn, Mass., April 24.—Bartenders' union has signed with the employers' by the association of its employers which provides that only union men shall be employed. The wage scale will be $21 per week, which shall not exceed fifty-seven hours. Members of the union shall be given the one week's notice, in writing, before discharged.

AGAINST MILITARISM.

Boston, April 24.—Opposition to a pending bill in the state legislature, which provides for compulsory military education in the schools for boys 14 and 21, has been recorded by the executive board of the Central Labor union.

VOTING ON NEW WAGE SCALE.

Boston, April 24.—The various Carpenters' unions of this city voted last week on a new wage scale which calls for 61 cents an hour for a week of 40 hours, instead of 55 cents and a week of 44 hours.

WANT MORE COSSACKS.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 24.—A bill introduced in the house would increase the number of state police to seventy in each of the four districts. The plan will be vigorously opposed by the trade union movement.

WELL-KNOWN CIGARMAKER DISCUSSES "WEAK SPOTS" IN OUR TRADE UNIONS

Chicago, April 24.—President Perkins of the International Cigarmakers' union uses language both plain and emphatic to show low-dues unionists their weakness, and the necessity for these workers favoring their organizations maintaining a strong financial system.

As editor of the Cigarmakers' Official Journal this executive writes on the "Weak Spots" of our movement in the following straight-from-the-shoulder fashion:

"No progress has ever been obtained by self-complacency; nor by moving aimlessly; nor by ignoring the records of experience and history. It is necessary and laudable to dwell upon the achievements of the past, and to explain to the rising generation the efforts and sacrifices made in gaining shorter hours, higher wages, and improved working conditions. It is the mission of the trade union movement to encourage the workers in the agitation for the improvement of the economic and social status of the masses. Moreover, it is of prime importance to point constantly to the necessity of increasing the membership by agitation and education, and by extending the hand of friendship to the men and women outside of our ranks. The organization of the workers, both male and female, skilled and unskilled, must go on and cannot stop till the goal is reached. In this endeavor nothing must be left undone till all obstacles are overcome or eliminated.

"In organizing and building up the trades union movement, we should heed the lessons of the past, the costly experience gained from defeat, and let us profit wisely; let us build strongly; let us build upon a foundation that will stand the test of time and the test of defeats. Let us build upon a basis that will enable us to withstand the shock of the first time after a disastrous defeat; that will enable us to rally our scattered forces in quick order, full of action and of hope and ardor.

"The American trades union movement, with a few exceptions, is full of weak spots.—It is lacking in preparation for emergencies, and fails to make provision for conflicts of an extended nature; it is narrow in a constructive sense and ignores the most vital point in caring for the unemployed in periods of business depression.

"It is built upon prosperous times and a continuous period of sunshine; it is not governed for periods of depression and the fluctuations in trade conditions. Some national unions have failed to make provisions for any strike benefit whatsoever; the members have to depend upon voluntary contributions and donations appropriated by the national executive board. There is no guarantee whatsoever for an adequate support in case of a prolonged strike or lockout. This is one of the weakest spots in the financial structure of the American trades union movement; it gives the employers a tremendous advantage at the outset of the struggle. It almost enables them to calculate when the starvation period would set in with all of its depressing influences. It encourages the employers to hold out and to delay arbitration, conciliation, confidence, and arbitration. It gives them the vantage and better position in the field of dispute.

"The employers cannot be deceived by bluster and braggadocia about matters that are known to all, or have no foundation in fact; neither can they be browbeaten with high-sounding resolutions and effusions. It is a well-filled treasury and not a weak one that will win in such contests. The weekly strike benefit paid promptly without reservation and evasion is the ammunition in the industrial field. It is the commissary department that fortifies and sustains the spirits of the members on strike, which bears on the situation with telling effect. It furnishes the endurance and powerful resistance to the attacks of a well-united front. The building up of a powerful and permanent reserve fund is one of the means to eliminate conflicts of a long duration."

OPERATORS BEING PINCHED

Bridgeport, Ohio, April 24.—Mine operators in Southeastern Ohio are beginning to feel the effects of their attempt to force their workers to accept a lower rate than other sections of the state, according to District President Albaugh's summary of present conditions. These mines were shut down April 1, 1914, the operators insisting that because of the Green anthracite screen law the miners must work for 14 1-2 cents a ton, instead of 17 cents, the prevailing Ohio rate. Since that time, 15,000 miners have been idle and their support by the organization has attracted nation-wide attention.

President Albaugh calls attention to persistent rumors of conferences and conferences between the operators; also to the moves of certain stockholders to undo what they term the "folly" of the so-called "iron-clad gentlemen's agreement" was entered into by the mine managers.

These operators were quite sure the time was ripe to "put a kink in the Mine Workers' union because of the financial drains that had resulted from the shutting down of many Southeastern strikes. But again was the stability of the United Mine Workers' union shown and now the operators have failed in these situations:

First—The mines closed for one year, resulting in loss of all big contracts.

Second—Expense of necessary upkeep of both mines and company houses without any source of revenue.

Third—Making satisfactory explanation to all stockholders.

Fourth—Loss of part of the dissatisfied bond-holders to keep them from taking possession for self-protection.

Fifth—Losing prestige through expenditures for imaginary legislative relief.

Sixth—Submission to unfair railroad demands in the matter of freight rates.

Seventh—Mistaken and defeated policies which ultimately must be acknowledged.

AN ATTORNEY'S OPINION.

Albany, N. Y., April 24.—Attorney John F. Connor, of Mount Morris, N. Y., made the chief plea before Gov. Whitman in favor of the bill that permits canneries to work their women and children seventy-two hours a week.

"Do you think it right to permit women to work fourteen hours?" the governor asked.

"With exceptions, which come frequently, due to various causes, I do not think that any harm can come from fourteen hours' labor," replied the attorney.

As a result of protests by the trade unionists generally, Gov. Whitman refused to sign this bill, which has since been amended. The quantity of regulating hours by law, instead of through economic power, is shown, however, by the claim that the amended bill is as bad as the original.

FIGHTING THE WHITE PLAGUE.

New York, April 24.—For the purpose of securing more co-operation from physicians and nurses in its anti-tuberculosis campaign, the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis has inaugurated a movement to bring the importance of this subject to the attention of these two groups.

Among the first things which the association is trying to do is to induce the medical colleges of the country to take steps to give more instruction, particularly of a clinical nature, on tuberculosis. An effort will be made to get before the individual practitioners and nurses by special booklets prepared for this purpose.

O. K.'S CHILD LABOR LAW.

Des Moines, Iowa, April 24.—Gov. Clarke signed the Allen child labor bill three hours after it was passed by the senate. The bill strengthens the old child labor law.

At a joint session of the senate and house the state printer and the state binder were re-elected. This ends the agitation which has been going on since the session opened for abolishing these offices and placing the work on a contract basis.

WILL DEFEND POOR GIRLS.

Chicago, April 24.—Sixty women lawyers of this city have placed their services at the disposal of Judge Hoan, of the municipal court, who is privileged to call any of them to defend girls brought before his bench. The forming of the division of prominent men lawyers who volunteered to defend poor boys brought before Judge Dolan in the boys' branch of the same court.

COOKS AND WAITERS ORGANIZE.

Bellingham, Wash., April 24.—Cooks and waiters in this city have organized and affiliated to the Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Alliance.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA "OUTLAWS" A UNION

Adelaide, South Australia, April 24.—On the application of managers of various theatrical enterprises, the registration of the Musicians' union has been cancelled and this organisation has been "outlawed" because its members have dared to control their own affairs and have resented government interference.

Judge Edmunds, of the industrial arbitration court, made the award, which is referred to by the Daily Herald as follows:

"The grounds of the application were that there were inherent defects in the rules of the union, which were contrary to public policy and the policy of the act; that the union attempted to dictate to the decision of the wages board; that the union was consequently conspiring or juggling with another union to defeat the intentions of the federal arbitration act.

"His honor said that he questioned whether the union should be allowed to exist when it made contracts which usurped the functions, in some respects, of the legislature, and of the wages board. The union, by its rules, had built around it a stone wall which shut out the court and the wages board. The application would be granted. An order was made cancelling so much of the award as related to members of the union."

NEW SCHEME FOR CONVICTS

Memphis, Tenn., April 24.—Former Representative Cohen of this city has introduced a scheme that may result in state prison convicts doing more than their allotted tasks, which will benefit the contractors and at the same time tend to weaken opposition to the convict labor system in this state. He then says "the state owes its dependents something," so he would have the former's earnings go to help the families of the convicts' own use. Prisoners are given so much to do each day or week. This is designated as tasks. Sometimes the prisoners accumulate small sums by doing overtasks. The former is given a bonus of 5 per cent of the wages he earns, whether he does overtasks or not.

The last legislature sanctioned the continuance of the convict leasing system and all contracts have been renewed at the old figure, except the hosiery mill contract, which was raised by outside parties from 51 cents to 73 cents per day per convict.

A legislative committee recently investigated the working of the state prison under the leasing system and it was found that men and women were forced because they failed to perform their tasks. As this inhumane treatment has failed to produce results, it is probable that the new plan will find favor.

RESTORE SEVEN-DAY WEEK.

Albany, N. Y., April 24.—By a vote of 55 to 0 the state assembly passed the Knight bill exempting certain employes from the one day of rest a week law. Those exempted are employes of salt refineries and employes of mercantile establishments whose hours of labor a week are limited by law.

WILL ORGANIZE PAINTERS.

Boston, April 24.—The international officers of the Painters' union are assisting in an organizing campaign, now being conducted throughout this city. The initiation fee has been reduced and it is believed the membership will be increased 3,000.

WANT A LABOR TEMPLE.

Augusta, Ga., April 24.—Trade unionists of this city want a home of their own and at the central body's last meeting a committee was appointed to confer and report on building a labor temple.

DIRECT VOTE FOR SENATORS.

Trenton, N. J., April 24.—Governor Fielder has signed a bill amending the election laws by providing for the direct primary election of candidates for the United States Senate.

PACKER DON'T LIKE UNIONS

Chicago, April 24.—Opposition to unions and a personal interest in the welfare of employes were features of the testimony of J. Ogden Armour, president of Armour & Co., meat packers, before the United States industrial relations commission.

The witness was most emphatic in his opposition to unions, although he had no objection to skilled workers uniting, provided the union was "led wisely" by its members. He likewise stated, however, that he would refuse permission to any "agitator" to visit the "private domain" of his employes. The commission he maintains an open door policy by which any employe with a grievance may appeal from a foreman direct to him. Not many of the employes have accepted this kindly offer. After President Armour had assured the commission that he takes a "personal interest in the employes' welfare," he was asked if he ever visited the homes of any employes. After some hesitation, he replied "no."

Commissioner Garretson, president of the Order of Railway Conductors, asked if the witness was family, according to the American standard, on $12 a week.

"That is a difficult question to answer and I think, naturally, it depends on getting additional," the witness answered. "What is ample for one might be inadequate for another. Lots of people live on $12 a week."

"Yes, and lots more have failed, haven't they?" Garretson persisted.

Mr. Armour was followed by Supt. O'Hern, who started with the company, twenty-five years ago, as a laborer at Packingtown. He also pointed to this fact with evident pride and as a result of his work great possibilities for Armour employes.

WOULD "GUARD" WORKERS.

Columbus, Ohio, April 24.—Trade unionists in this state are aroused because of the Archer bill, and from the Ohio river to the lakes they are protesting against this proposal, which would place them in the position of being "guarded" by state officials.

Under the Archer measure a force is to be bestowed on an industrial commission, which will supplant the state factory inspectors and all other state labor departments. This commission will have full power and supervision over employment and places of employment, and will issue orders as to "conditions" considered necessary. The bill has passed the senate and is now in the house.

ANTI-SCREEN LAW REMAINS.

Columbus, Ohio, April 24.—The house defeated the Gallagher bill, which has been passed by the senate, and which repealed the anti-screen law. Green law makes the run of mine basis compulsory. The latter act has been bitterly contested by the operators, who have been defeated in the United States Supreme court in an effort to have the law set aside. At present strike of miners in Southeastern Ohio is caused by demand of the operators for a wage reduction because of the Green law, which is complied with in other sections of the state.

SCHOOL BILL CAUSES DEBATE.

Springfield, Ill., April 24.—Heated controversy marked the hearing before the joint meeting of the house and senate committees on education when manufacturers and trade unionists discussed the bill introduced by the state superintendent of public instruction which provides that only union men shall be employed on "vocational" department for workers' education. Opponents of the measure declare the plan will impoverish and weaken the present school system and is intended to furnish a cheap labor market for employers.

The plan would "make beasts of burden out of our children instead of intelligent men and women," declared Frederick Dunbar of the State Federation of Labor.

CLEANERS TO ASK A RAISE.

Boston, April 24.—The Central Labor Union has indorsed the new wage scale of the Office Building Cleaners' union, which calls for an increase to $1 per day. The present wage scale is $3 to $4, the women receiving the higher wage being required to work mornings and afternoons, while the men work only in the afternoons. It is said that a majority of the women employed in office buildings are widows and mothers of families, for whom they are the only support, and who work between midnight and 8 a. m.

VOTE TO ENFORCE DEMANDS.

Boston, April 24.—The Wholesale Upholsterers' union has voted to enforce its demands for a change in the wage scale and working hours. A weekly wage, instead of piecework, is demanded, which is to be paid for a week's work is asked.

DUBUQUE'S NEW PEACE PACT

Dubuque, Iowa, April 24.—The Trades and Labor Congress has approved the proposed arbitration plan for the settlement of industrial disputes in this city, and it is now offered to the individual locals for their indorsement.

It is proposed that a joint arbitration board shall be created, consisting of three members of the Contractors' association and three members of the central body. In the event of a failure to agree, the question shall be settled at the first adjustment to an umpire.

Where any of any nature arise, it is agreed there shall be no strike, lockout or cessation of work. All agreements as to working rules, wages, hours, etc., shall be effective the first day of April of each year and all demands for change in same shall be made in writing submitted prior to January 1 of each year, and the same shall be settled not later than March 15. If any contractor who is not a party to the settlement, or any union that is a party to the agreement, refuses to abide by the decision of the board, same shall be fined or expelled in accordance with the laws of the respective association or union.

Workers' assessments, established or the Trades and Labor Congress may cancel the agreement on the first day of April of any year by giving sixty days' notice. A failure to give such notice shall be construed that the agreement continues on until such notice is given.

SMALL PAY FOR WIREMEN.

Chicago, April 24.—"There are 200 men in the Chicago office, and I don't believe that you can find two of them who are satisfied with their pay," Edward W. T. Hoge, vice president of the Postal Telegraph company operator, before the United States industrial relations commission.

The witness said operators on circuits receive $85 per month, but those on the "A" wire are unable to work full time, and earnings fall below that.

"There is much dissatisfaction over the wages and the 'hounding' of the men to speed up," testified Hoge. "In this city our instruments are too close together, and we can't work in the daytime. The relief men are the key to necessary sometimes you can't get relief for an hour."

J. E. McElreath, a telegrapher employed by the International News Service of this city, testified that the commercial telegraph companies maintain a blacklist.

"I am on it because I am a union man," he said, and he added that he was sure the list was interchangeable with the Postal Union and the Postal Telegraph companies. He said it merely was available to the railroad companies.

SPECIAL CONVENTION CALLED.

Springfield, Ill., April 24.—Unionists in this state will hold an emergency convention in this city next Tuesday to consider labor legislation now pending before the legislature, says Secretary Barrett, of the State Federation of Labor, railroad brotherhoods and other organizations, signed by representatives of the State Federation of Labor, railroad brotherhoods and other organizations, says:

"The emergency convention is absolutely necessary if organized labor is to get any beneficial legislation at this session of the legislature. The big business interests of the state recently held a gathering of its representatives at Springfield and immediately afterward it was discovered that a scheme was on foot to prevent the passage of all labor measures by the use of the governor's veto power after the passage of the appropriation bills and to make it prevented. Only a vigorous protest from a sympathetic nature from organized labor will save the situation."

MINIMUM WAGE BOARD DIES.

Denver, Col., April 24.—Gov. Carlson has vetoed a bill which provided for the continuance of the state women's minimum wage board. The chief executive gives this reason: "A large part of the duties of the commission proposed by the bill already has been imposed upon the industrial commission."

The Denver Labor Bulletin makes the following comment on the governor's action:

"He has aroused the ire of club women and others who make a fad of trying to help working women theoretically by vetoing the women's minimum wage commission. Real help for women really want to do something in earnest for the working girls they employ requires more than granting them the right to organize."

CITY BLAMED FOR WRECK.

Washington, April 24.—The Evening Star of this city blames certain authorities for the death of fifteen persons in a collision between a street car and a freight train on a grade crossing in that city. The Star says:

"No such grade crossing should be permitted in any city, and the existence of a death trap of this kind is a reproach to the municipality and to the officials responsible for the make-up of the local government. The green motorman who misunderstood signals and failed to control his car is by no means as reprehensible as the municipal officials who will tolerate the continuance of such crossings or the voters who will continue such officials in position."

RUSH TO ALASKA FEARED.

Washington, April 24.—Fear is expressed by the Alaskan engineering commission that a stampede of workers to Alaska, following the work on the Alaskan government railway, will result in thousands of laboring men reaching the territory this summer. There is no work to do.

Chairman William C. Edes is authority for the statement that about 400 positions will be open during the next few months, and that 4,000 applications have been made for these positions.

CALL FOR LABOR DENIED.

New York, April 24.—Sir Courtenay W. Bromley, British consul general, here, says his office has no knowledge of reported requests for workingmen to be sent to England. Great Britain has called for places in industrial establishments of those who are at the front.

The consul general says he has been notified that there is a shortage of labor, nothing of the proposed arrangements.

DEPEND ON PUBLICITY.

Grand Rapids, Mich., April 24.—Metal polishers are strike leaders in the Grand Rapids Refrigerator company are depending on publicity to win their fight. This concern has discharged nine because they belong to a labor organization. The company declares for the "open shop" and which it terms "good shops."

ANGRY AT COOLIE LABOR LOSS

San Francisco, April 24.—The Pacific Mail Steamship company, operating a foreign trade line under the American flag, announces that all sailings after November 2, 1915, have been cancelled because of the new seamen's law.

This company's ships are manned by coolie labor, which the new law prohibits. One of its boats, the City of Pekin, in Manila was but several years ago, together with 151 human lives. In the litigation that followed it was shown that the crew of eighty-four Chinamen and white officers could not understand the language of either. The court, in discussing this feature of the evidence, said:

"We have no hesitation in holding that the ship was improperly manned, for the reason that the sailors were unable to understand and execute the orders made imperative by the exigency that unhappily arose, and resulted so disastrously to life, as well as to property."

General Manager Schwerin of the Pacific company has vigorously opposed the seamen's bill, and while it was in the hands of the state legislature, Rudolph Spreckles, president of the Merchants' National Bank of California, made this comment on the coolie wreck, in his defense of the bill:

"The fact that the loss of life in the accident referred to in the above case seems of no consequence to the man who saw fit to defend the right of the right to continue the dangerous system of running steamers under his flag manned with Chinese is discovered by white men.

"The same man who preaches so eloquently for cash dividends for his company at the expense of labor employed under his management himself receives a princely salary. More efficient and conscientious management of the affairs of employers might produce several times more money for that steamship company than the apparent saving made by employing cheap Oriental labor."

TEACHERS WANT PENSION.

Philadelphia, April 24.—Teachers in this state are interested in a pension bill to be introduced shortly in the state legislature.

According to the terms of the bill, the state is to be the administrator, and the service is to be provided by the teachers. There is a constitutional prohibition against the state granting unrestricted pay for public services. It is proposed to overcome this by increasing teachers' salaries proportionately to their contributions to the retirement fund.

Teachers who begin to teach for any period between July 1, 1915, and June 20, 1925, are to pay into the retirement fund the following per cent of the following percentages of their salaries:

First five years, 4 per cent; second, 3 per cent; third, 2 per cent; fourth, 1 per cent. This would make the maximum contribution as follows: First five years, 3½ a year; second, $45; third, $30; fourth, $15.

The payments are to be retained from salary warrants. A teacher removing from the state before the pension shall have all contributions refunded with 3 per cent interest.

STATE RISK FUND LAW VALID.

Madison, Wis., April 24.—The attorney general has ruled that the laws creating the state life insurance fund and providing that no investment in the life fund for policy holders in the state is constitutional. He also rules that the law creating the insurance of state and municipal and school funds is constitutional by the state and creating the public school teachers' retirement fund are constitutional. He declares the state treasurer's request to bring suits to test these laws.

The first claim against the state life fund, which is $1,000 on the life of Dr. George Keenan, of Madison, who recently died, has been filed and now will be paid by the state treasurer.

ACCIDENT LIST DECREASES.

Madison, Wis., April 24.—During the past year the number of accidents in the state of Wisconsin decreased 10 to 60 per cent, largely through the guarding of dangerous machinery, reports the Wisconsin industrial commission. It is stated that during the year 16,000 accidents were reported, causing disability for more than one week occurred in the 16,000 factories of the state. Workmen's compensation in compensation for loss of wages and for medical and hospital attendance $1,325,000.

GEORGIA FARMERS ALERT.

Macon, Ga., April 24.—Farmers in this state are awakening to the necessity of organization as a result of a recent decision by the executive committee of the Georgia Farmers' union. Each county will be solidly organized during the coming year and an effort made to secure the adoption of state legislation favorable to farmers and the state Federation of Labor are working together and both the legislative committees of the two bodies have agreed that only friends among the lawmakers will be supported.

METHODS FOR INSANE WRONG

Washington, April 24.—Citizens of methods in vogue in many parts of the District of Columbia for the insane, Columbia, whereby insane persons are handled by the police department as criminals instead of by the medical authorities as sick people, was voiced at a meeting of the superintendent of the government hospital for the insane, in a speech by this executive.

"I believe an insane asylum should be as free of access to those who desire to see persons as a general hospital," he said. "If a man falls and breaks his leg it is not only easy to get through the hospital doors, but almost impossible to avoid it. The same holds true if a man has the d.t.'s. The mad with a mental disorder needing medical assistance exactly as much, and should be considered in the same light as is disagreeable."

Asked by one of his auditors how he considered the present system, he replied: "I consider it criminal. Insane people are sick people, and should be in the hands of the health department and not the arm of the law."

The speaker said there are places in the United States where cruder and more barbarous methods for the treatment of the insane prevail.

That proper care of the feeble-minded or slightly mentally deficient should be especially important to those of the public, he said, is shown by the generally accepted estimate that from 10 per cent of those in penal institutions where they can receive attention and observation.